

# The Outrigger's **GOLDEN BOYS**

By Erika Eberhart

For the first time in Club history, the Outrigger will field a Men's Golden Masters Crew to compete in the Molokai Hoe. These 14 extraordinary men, all 55 years of age and older, bring a wealth of experience to the canoe, representing a combined average of 90 years of paddling time.

The brain child of Golden Masters paddler Bill Johnson, who invests approximately 10 hours per week in the crew, this group of men have come off of an extremely successful regatta season, with the hopes of continuing their wins through the distance season.

Some of the paddlers in the Men's Golden Masters crew are featured below. This crew is comprised of 14 phenomenal Outrigger members, with 12 slated for the crew, and two alternates. The paddlers not featured below include Bart Watson, Juvie Coito, Ray Sukanuma, Cormac O'Carroll, Alan Maddalena, Joe Dubiel and Kent Giles.

## **Bill Johnson**

"Due to our success in the Men's 60's, we decided to take this core of dedicated and fit paddlers and form a Molokai crew for long distance. If we can blend this group together, we should do well...Paddling is all about getting good exercise, having fun with your buddies, and being on the beautiful water of Hawaii Nei." Molokai Races: 1.

## **Stan Markle**

"It's a pleasure to paddle with these seasoned veterans...I've never been more excited about paddling. I love working as a team with these 60 years old state champions." Molokai Races: 2.

## **David Larson**

"In Hawaii, I usually paddle at least five times a week. I'm too new at this to have much paddling wisdom. It is simply a great, fun way to be on the water and do Hawaii! Molokai Races: 0.

## **Darryll Wong**

"We all do this because we love the water, love to compete, and we all want to win, but at the end of the day, it's all about the 'team' and your 'team mates' — knowing that you

have prepared and given as much as you can to contribute to it. Molokai Races: 3.

## **Ronald Hochuli**

"I enjoy the training and friendships that develop through the season. This is most important, the races are just a bonus...At my age, I frequently remember the words of Buddha — Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship." Molokai Races: 5.

## **Glenn Perry**

Glenn started paddling for Lanikai Canoe Club in 1955 at 11 years of age. He went on to win the State Championships with Lanikai several times, and eventually moved to the Outrigger Canoe Club, winning more championships. Molokai Races: 4.

## **Chuck Heitzman**

"I certainly started paddling late in life, encouraged by my wife, Susan, to try it. Because I got out of my business box, I have had a terrific time. The OCC coaches have been the best...The men I practice with are remarkable athletes and inspirational to be around. My advice is to go for it." Molokai Races: 0.

In addition to the aforementioned athletes, two other Outrigger paddling icons have been instrumental in igniting these men to continue on the road to distance success: Tay Perry and John Finney train with their fellow Golden Masters and help prepare them for what's ahead.

Tay cannot race distance due to schedule conflicts, but practices regularly anyway. John raced the Duke Kahanamoku with the crew on August 17, but was injured fighting a fan belt in his car shortly thereafter, severing a finger, making it impossible to continue paddling during the 2008 season.

Hopefully the awe-inspiring mental and physical strength and perseverance demonstrated by the 16 Golden Masters Men named in this article will set a standard for the rest of us. The crew wanted to share their mantra for 2008: "Blood, Sweat, Cheers...and then, Beers!" Good luck, boys!